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ABSTRACT

This report presents the annual survey of public opinion in Pennsylvania. Telephone surveys were conducted with 1,744 people whose telephone numbers were randomly selected from all listed telephone numbers. Results of the survey indicate that: (1) Pennsylvanians strongly favor mandatory birth control counseling for welfare mothers, but opinion is split on other proposals for welfare reform; (2) 88 percent of respondents support inclusion of the word "addictive" on cigarette warning labels and the majority support bans on cigarette advertising and vending machines; (3) 70 percent agree that women should have the right to choose abortion but also support specific restrictions such as informing the husband and parental notification; (4) 75 percent of respondents favor giving parents the right to choose the public school within the school district for their child to attend and the majority supports continued use of state funds to aid private colleges and universities; and (5) respondents also favor laws to provide health insurance for children under 6 years, require employers to provide employees health insurance, and limit legislators' terms. This document contains data tables and figures presenting frequencies distributions of respondents' sociodemographic variables by survey questions. Appendices include regional and urban-rural classification of Pennsylvania and the demographic characteristics of participants. (LP)

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ED355049

Views of Pennsylvania Citizens

THE PUBLIC MIND

SMOKING
ABORTION
EDUCATION
TERM LIMITS
WELFARE REFORM
HEALTH INSURANCE
RIVERBOAT GAMBLING

MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY RURAL SERVICES

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Report No. 4
May 1992

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THE RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE

BACKGROUND

The Rural Services Institute (RSI) was established in 1984 as the applied research and community service arm of Mansfield University within the Division of Community Services and Continuing Education.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to share the resources of the university with the regional rural community. We encourage and assist students, faculty, and staff to meet the identified needs of business and industry, area students, local governments, and social service agencies.

MISSION

Our mission is to engage in community service on behalf of the university and to be the applied research arm of Mansfield University.

How We Will Accomplish Our Mission

In carrying out our mission we will:

*strive for excellence in all our efforts;
*apply the resources of the university to help solve community problems;
*be committed to providing leadership for the economic revitalization and development of the region;
*be committed to increasing the problem solving capacity of the region;
*work at raising people's expectation levels and their self esteem;
*assume the role of pointing out problems to the community;
*act as a facilitator in helping the community reach solutions to their identified problems;
*do applied research and pilot projects on potential solutions to these problems;
*strive to enhance the image of Mansfield University;
*seek to attain the goals set by the State System of Higher Education and Mansfield University.

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4th Annual RSI Survey

May, 1992

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WELFARE REFORM

— **Pennsylvanians strongly favor mandatory birth control counselling for welfare mothers, but opinion is split on other proposals for reform.**

Encourage Mothers to Marry. Over the past few years, so-called "bridefare" or "wedfare" proposals have been advocated by some welfare reformers. The idea is to encourage single welfare mothers to marry, and hopefully to shift support of the mother and offspring from the state to the husband. To encourage mothers to marry, some states allow married welfare recipients to retain more of their earnings than single mothers. However, critics charge that pressuring welfare mothers to marry will compound problems of assuring children adequate support, especially if they are not the offspring of the husband. At this point, Pennsylvanians are split (45%, favor; 40%, oppose) on the idea of changing welfare regulations to encourage single welfare mothers to marry. Support for the idea is relatively strong (55%) among the elderly, but much weaker (38%) among persons under 35.

Require Birth Control Counselling. Concerned that 20% of the children born of mothers living below the poverty level are "unwanted", some welfare reformers have advocated for more birth control counselling programs. On this matter, a strong majority of Pennsylvanians (89%) agree with the idea of requiring welfare mothers of child bearing age to get birth control counselling.

Pay Welfare Mothers to Limit Reproduction. With the availability of long-lasting implant methods of birth control (e.g., Norplant), it has been suggested that welfare mothers of child bearing age be given incentives to use the methods while on welfare. For example, it has been suggested that welfare recipients be given an additional $50/year for as long as the contraceptive remains implanted. Among Pennsylvanians, opinion on the idea is generally split (42%, favor; 50%, oppose).

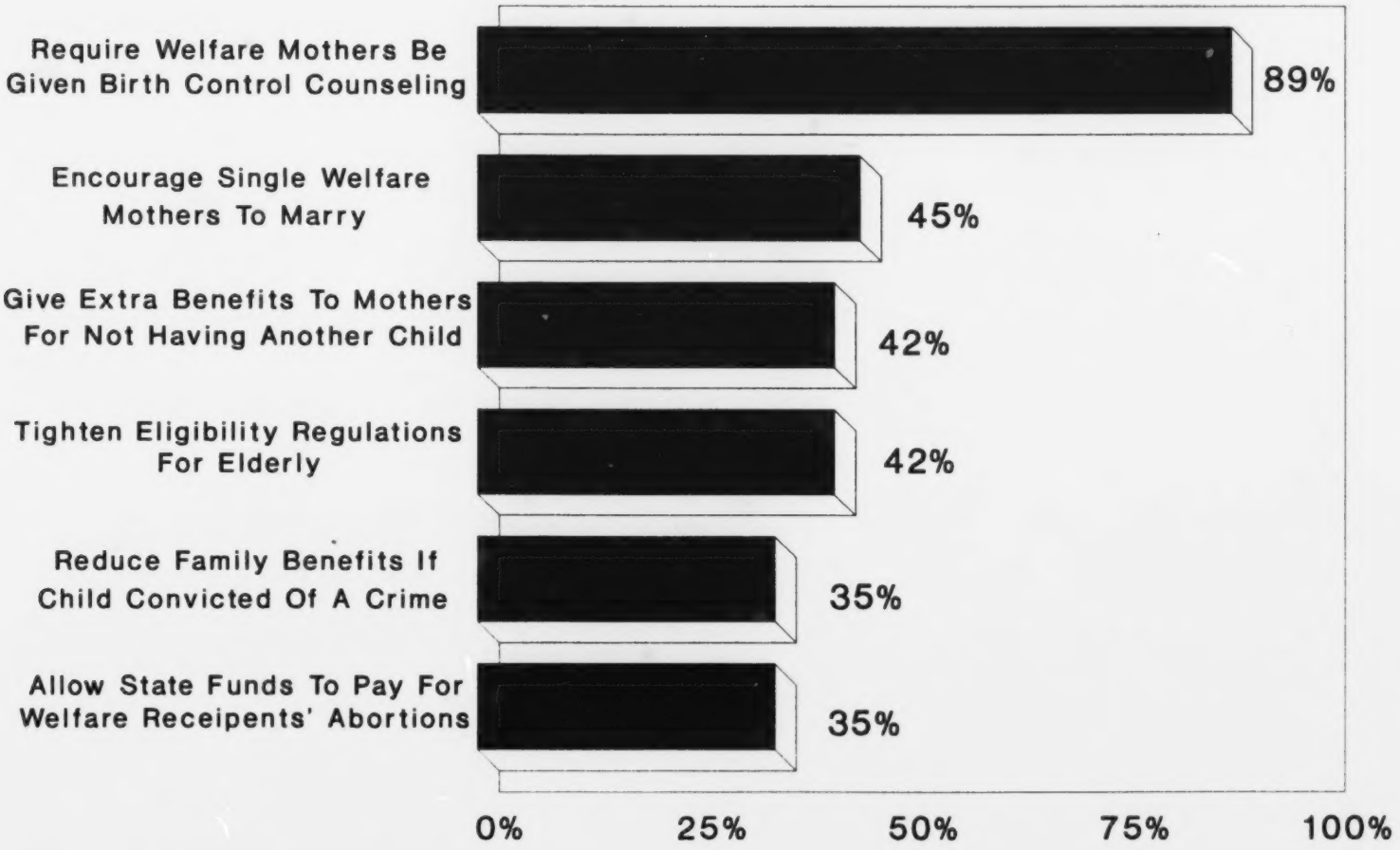
Use of State Funds to Pay for the Abortions of Women on Welfare. Only 35% of Pennsylvanians support the idea of having the state pay for the abortions of women on welfare. Support for the proposal is strongest (40%) in the Philadelphia region; weakest (27%) in the Erie region. Religious orientation and level of education are also linked to opinion: 54% of persons with no religious preference compared to only 29% of Catholics support the idea. Similarly, college-educated persons are more supportive than persons who have not completed high school (44% v. 28%).

Reduce Welfare Benefits if Child Is Convicted of a Crime. In an attempt to encourage school attendance and reduce the dropout rate of students from welfare families, so-called "learnfare" programs have been introduced in several states. Under the reforms, welfare payments are reduced if a child has excessive absenteeism or drops out of school. Extending that idea, some welfare reformers have suggested that welfare benefits should also be reduced if a welfare recipient's child engages in illegal/delinquent behavior. At this point, only 35% of Pennsylvanians agree with the idea of reducing a family's welfare benefits if a child is convicted of a "crime" (in a legal-technical sense a minor cannot be convicted of a crime).

Tighten Medicaid Eligibility Requirements for the Elderly. In order to qualify for Medicaid, an increasing number of middle class elderly parents are transferring assets to their children — especially, if it is expected that the parents will have to enter a nursing home. Public opinion about the idea of making it more difficult to qualify for Medicaid by transferring assets is mixed: 42% favor, 47% oppose. Interestingly, support is much stronger in the Northwest (49%) than in the Northeast (32%).

Figure 1. WELFARE REFORM PROPOSALS

Respondents "Favoring" Welfare Reforms to ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1992

WELFARE REFORM:
ENCOURAGE UNWED WELFARE MOTHERS TO MARRY

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Change welfare regulations to encourage single welfare mothers to marry?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	45%	40	15	1729
Rural/Urban				
Rural	46%	38	17	360
Urban	45%	40	14	1369
Region				
Northwest	41%	42	16	163
Southwest	44%	39	17	455
Central	50%	37	13	349
Northeast	42%	41	18	131
Southeast	46%	42	13	631
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	38%	52	11	445
35-49	40%	47	13	521
50-64	52%	30	17	395
65 or older	55%	26	19	341
Sex				
Male	49%	37	14	697
Female	42%	43	16	1020
Race				
White	45%	40	14	1575
Black	46%	42	12	98
Other	47%	29	25	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	48%	29	23	209
High School Graduate	48%	37	15	921
College Graduate	40%	48	12	580
Political Affiliation				
Republican	47%	39	14	641
Democrat	46%	41	13	645
Independent/Other	36%	45	18	66
None	42%	40	19	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	48%	39	13	797
Catholic	46%	38	16	618
None	32%	53	15	119
Union Member				
Yes	52%	34	14	261
No	44%	41	15	1466

WELFARE REFORM: REQUIRE BIRTH CONTROL COUNSELLING FOR WELFARE MOTHERS

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Require welfare mothers of child bearing age to get birth control counselling?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	89%	9	3	1736
Rural/Urban				
Rural	91%	7	2	366
Urban	88%	9	3	1370
Region				
Northwest	90%	8	2	164
Southwest	86%	11	2	456
Central	92%	6	2	352
Northeast	88%	9	3	133
Southeast	89%	8	3	631
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	88%	11	2	448
35-49	89%	8	3	521
50-64	92%	8	1	398
65 or older	87%	8	5	342
Sex				
Male	85%	11	4	701
Female	92%	6	2	1023
Race				
White	90%	8	2	1582
Black	83%	14	3	98
Other	83%	11	6	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	87%	9	4	209
High School Graduate	91%	6	2	926
College Graduate	85%	12	2	582
Political Affiliation				
Republican	91%	7	2	645
Democrat	88%	10	2	647
Independent/Other	79%	14	6	66
None	90%	7	3	319
Religious Preference				
Protestant	91%	7	2	802
Catholic	89%	9	2	621
None	80%	14	6	118
Union Member				
Yes	88%	9	2	262
No	89%	8	3	1452

WELFARE REFORM:
REDUCE BENEFITS IF CHILD COMMITS CRIME

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Reduce a family's welfare benefits if a child is convicted of a crime?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	35%	52	13	1732
Rural/Urban				
Rural	37%	48	14	366
Urban	35%	52	13	1366
Region				
Northwest	40%	46	14	164
Southwest	31%	56	13	455
Central	38%	49	13	350
Northeast	30%	58	12	133
Southeast	37%	50	13	630
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	36%	54	10	447
35-49	32%	57	11	520
50-64	35%	51	15	398
65 or older	40%	41	19	339
Sex				
Male	40%	51	9	699
Female	31%	53	16	1021
Race				
White	35%	51	13	1578
Black	32%	58	10	98
Other	39%	48	13	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	38%	43	19	207
High School Graduate	36%	51	13	926
College Graduate	33%	56	11	581
Political Affiliation				
Republican	38%	47	14	645
Democrat	32%	56	12	646
Independent/Other	35%	57	8	66
None	36%	50	14	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	39%	47	14	801
Catholic	32%	57	11	619
None	32%	56	12	119
Union Member				
Yes	34%	52	13	262
No	36%	51	13	1448

WELFARE REFORM:
INCENTIVE PAYMENT TO WELFARE MOTHERS WHO LIMIT REPRODUCTION

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Give extra benefits to welfare mothers who do not have another child while on welfare?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	42%	50	8	1730
Rural/Urban				
Rural	43%	48	9	364
Urban	41%	51	8	1366
Region				
Northwest	45%	45	9	164
Southwest	41%	50	9	454
Central	42%	50	8	351
Northeast	42%	52	6	132
Southeast	40%	52	8	629
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	41%	56	4	447
35-49	43%	50	8	521
50-64	42%	47	12	367
65 or older	40%	49	11	339
Sex				
Male	44%	50	6	697
Female	40%	50	10	1021
Race				
White	42%	50	8	1576
Black	41%	50	9	98
Other	44%	45	11	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	38%	51	12	208
High School Graduate	42%	51	8	924
College Graduate	43%	49	8	579
Political Affiliation				
Republican	44%	49	7	643
Democrat	43%	48	9	645
Independent/Other	43%	47	10	66
None	33%	58	9	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	44%	48	8	801
Catholic	41%	51	8	618
None	40%	50	10	117
Union Member				
Yes	43%	48	9	262
No	41%	51	8	1446

WELFARE REFORM:
PAY FOR ABORTIONS OF WOMEN ON WELFARE

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the following proposal: Using state funds to pay for abortions for women on welfare?

RESPONSES:	Approve	Disapprove	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	35%	59	6	1715
Rural/Urban				
Rural	33%	62	6	359
Urban	36%	58	6	1356
Region				
Northwest	27%	65	8	158
Southwest	32%	61	7	455
Central	33%	64	3	346
Northeast	36%	57	7	132
Southeast	40%	53	7	624
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	34%	60	6	444
35-49	39%	57	4	516
50-64	39%	54	6	391
65 or older	27%	65	9	339
Sex				
Male	37%	58	5	690
Female	34%	59	7	1013
Race				
White	35%	59	6	1563
Black	44%	48	7	98
Other	38%	50	11	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	28%	65	8	205
High School Graduate	31%	63	6	917
College Graduate	44%	51	6	575
Political Affiliation				
Republican	35%	60	5	641
Democrat	39%	55	6	640
Independent/Other	31%	66	3	66
None	30%	63	8	313
Religious Preference				
Protestant	35%	58	7	790
Catholic	29%	66	5	617
None	54%	39	6	120
Union Member				
Yes	36%	58	6	262
No	35%	59	6	1432

WELFARE REFORM:
TIGHTEN ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS FOR ELDERLY

Question: Some elderly parents transfer their savings to their children before going into a nursing home so that welfare will cover the cost of their care. Would you favor or oppose making it more difficult for them to be eligible for welfare assistance?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	42%	47	12	1723
Rural/Urban				
Rural	47%	42	11	360
Urban	40%	48	12	1363
Region				
Northwest	49%	40	11	164
Southwest	43%	44	13	449
Central	44%	45	11	349
Northeast	32%	56	12	132
Southeast	40%	49	11	629
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	43%	49	8	448
35-49	42%	48	10	519
50-64	41%	47	12	392
65 or older	40%	42	18	336
Sex				
Male	45%	45	10	696
Female	39%	48	13	1015
Race				
White	43%	46	11	1568
Black	35%	58	7	98
Other	30%	53	18	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	37%	45	18	205
High School Graduate	42%	48	10	920
College Graduate	44%	45	11	579
Political Affiliation				
Republican	44%	46	10	639
Democrat	40%	48	12	643
Independent/Other	49%	39	12	66
None	42%	44	13	317
Religious Preference				
Protestant	44%	43	12	795
Catholic	40%	49	11	617
None	32%	57	11	120
Union Member				
Yes	38%	48	14	260
No	43%	46	11	1441

REDUCING SMOKING

- **88% of Pennsylvanians support inclusion of the word "addictive" on warning labels.**
- **A majority support bans on cigarette advertising and vending machines.**
- **Public opinion is split about making possession of tobacco illegal for persons under 21.**
- **A minority of Pennsylvanians feel that tobacco companies should be held liable for the harmful effects of cigarettes.**
- **Only 17% of Pennsylvanians agree that employers should be allowed to refuse to hire smokers.**

Change Warning Labels. Proponents of the use of warning labels to deter smoking contend that the labels should indicate that nicotine is not only a health threat, but it is also addictive. Eighty-eight percent of Pennsylvanians agree; however, changing or adding information to the label would have to be done at the federal, rather than the state, level of government.

Ban Cigarette Advertising. In response to the federal restriction on TV advertising of cigarettes, the tobacco industry has focussed its advertising in the print media. In fact, critics claim that the print media industry now derives so much revenue from the tobacco industry there is a reluctance on the part of newspapers to be appropriately supportive of anti-smoking efforts. A majority (54%) of Pennsylvanians support a ban on cigarette advertising; women (60%), more so than men (49%).

Ban on Cigarette Vending Machines. Another proposal to reduce smoking, especially among the young, is to ban cigarette vending machines. In fact, across the country, a number of communities have already imposed bans and many are debating the proposal. In Pennsylvania, a majority (54%) agree with the proposal. Predictably, smokers are less supportive of a ban than non-smokers (41% v. 60%).

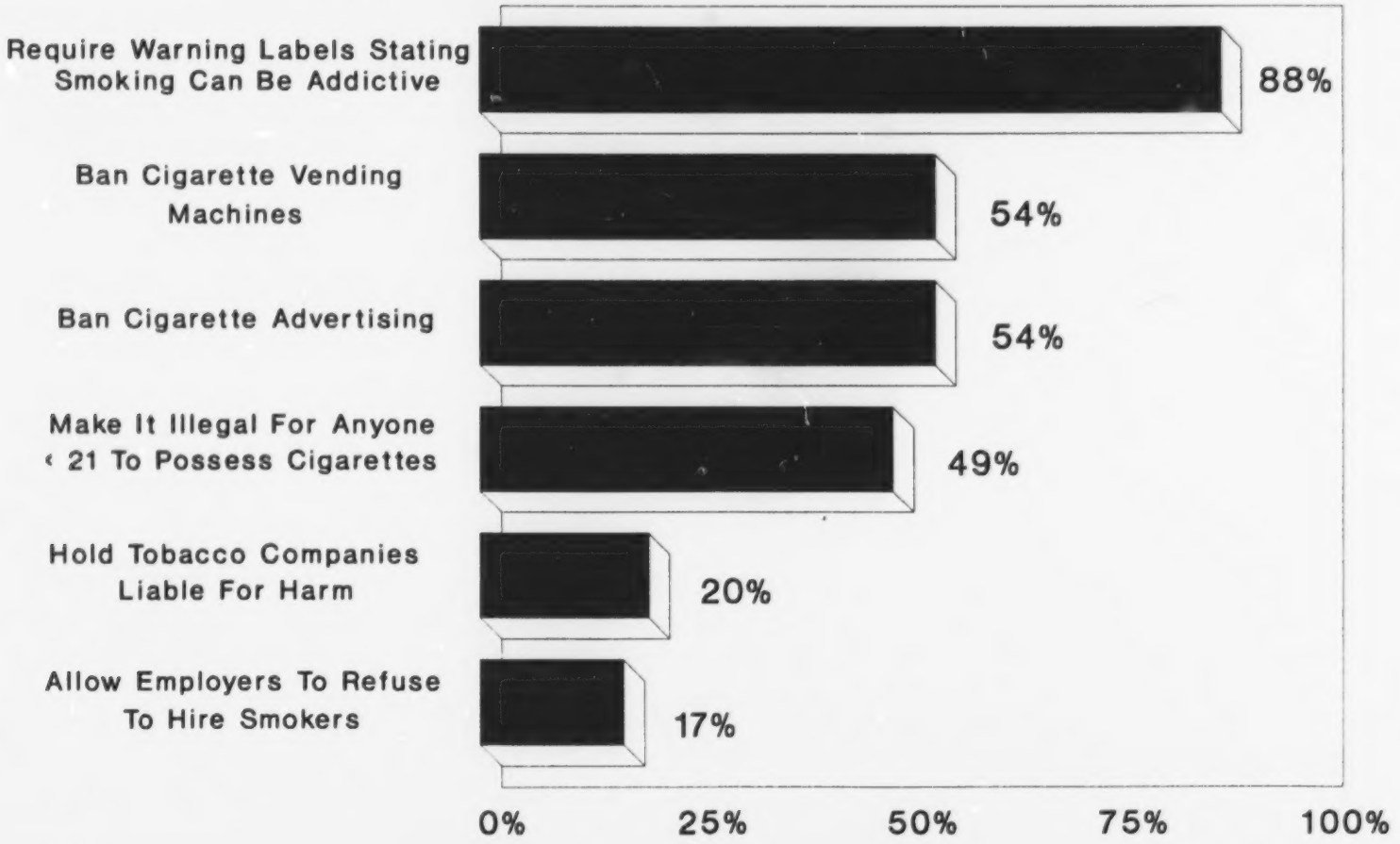
Possession Law. Currently, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to anyone under 18, but it is not illegal for minors to possess cigarettes. To reduce smoking by minors, one proposal is to treat tobacco like alcohol; to have a smoking age similar to a drinking age. Proponents of the idea contend that by having a smoking age, authorities will not necessarily arrest every underaged smoker, but by being able to threaten an arrest they will be able to find out who is illegally providing cigarettes to minors. In the 1991 Public Mind survey, respondents were asked: "Currently, in Pennsylvania, there is a legal age for drinking. Would you favor or oppose having a legal age for smoking?" About two-thirds agreed, but about half thought the legal age should be 18. This year, respondents were asked their views on a more restrictive proposal: "Do you agree or disagree with the following proposal to reduce smoking: pass a law which would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess cigarettes?" As anticipated, respondents were less supportive of the proposal because it suggested more restriction. Nonetheless, nearly half (49%) of Pennsylvanians agreed with the idea. Surprisingly, there were notable regional differences: 59% in the Northwest compared to only 42% in the Southeast; 59% of those without a high school education compared to only 42% of the college-educated. Support was notably weak (38%) among persons who did not have a religious preference.

Making Tobacco Companies Liable for Harm to Smokers. Only 20% of Pennsylvanians agree that smokers and ex-smokers have the right to sue tobacco companies for health problems attributed to smoking.

Employer's Right to Refuse to Hire Smokers. Relatively few (17%) Pennsylvanians agree that an employer should have the right to refuse to hire smokers.

Figure 2. PROPOSALS TO REDUCE SMOKING

Percent of Respondents Who "Favor" Laws to ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1992

REDUCING SMOKING: RIGHT TO REFUSE TO HIRE SMOKERS

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following proposals to reduce smoking: Should employers be allowed to refuse to hire people who smoke?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	17%	79	4	1729
Rural/Urban				
Rural	19%	77	4	365
Urban	16%	80	4	1364
Region				
Northwest	19%	77	4	166
Southwest	17%	78	5	456
Central	18%	79	3	350
Northeast	17%	79	4	131
Southeast	15%	81	4	626
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	13%	86	1	447
35-49	16%	81	3	578
50-64	22%	74	4	395
65 or older	16%	75	9	341
Sex				
Male	18%	78	4	702
Female	16%	80	4	1015
Race				
White	17%	79	4	1574
Black	17%	80	3	98
Other	21%	79	0	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	17%	74	9	208
High School Graduate	15%	82	4	925
College Graduate	20%	78	2	577
Political Affiliation				
Republican	20%	77	3	641
Democrat	17%	79	4	645
Independent/Other	11%	87	3	66
None	13%	83	4	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	19%	76	5	797
Catholic	14%	82	4	620
None	13%	86	2	119
Union Member				
Yes	13%	81	6	262
No	17%	79	3	1445
Smoking Status				
Smoker	7%	91	2	387
Ex-Smoker	18%	79	3	507
Non-Smoker	20%	74	6	812

REDUCING SMOKING:
MAKE COMPANIES LIABLE FOR HARM

Question: Some people say tobacco companies should be held liable for health problems caused by smoking. They claim the companies use advertising to conceal the dangers of smoking. Other people say tobacco companies should not be held liable because there are warning labels on their products. Do you think tobacco companies should or should not be held liable?

RESPONSES:	Should	Should Not	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	20%	77	3	1735
Rural/Urban				
Rural	20%	78	2	367
Urban	20%	77	3	1368
Region				
Northwest	18%	82	0	167
Southwest	22%	76	2	465
Central	19%	77	4	351
Northeast	18%	78	4	133
Southeast	20%	76	3	628
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	15%	82	3	448
35-49	20%	77	2	522
50-64	24%	73	4	394
65 or older	23%	74	4	343
Sex				
Male	22%	75	3	704
Female	18%	78	3	1019
Race				
White	19%	78	3	1580
Black	30%	64	6	98
Other	35%	65	0	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	23%	71	6	210
High School Graduate	18%	80	2	927
College Graduate	22%	74	4	579
Political Affiliation				
Republican	20%	78	2	642
Democrat	22%	76	2	648
Independent/Other	21%	76	3	67
None	18%	76	6	319
Religious Preference				
Protestant	21%	76	2	796
Catholic	19%	78	3	624
None	18%	80	1	121
Union Member				
Yes	27%	71	2	262
No	19%	78	3	1451
Smoking Status				
Smoker	14%	84	2	387
Ex-Smoker	21%	77	3	511
Non-Smoker	23%	73	4	815

REDUCING SMOKING: CHANGE WARNING LABELS

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following proposal to reduce smoking: Require cigarette warning labels to say that smoking can be addictive?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	88%	10	2	1733
Rural/Urban				
Rural	88%	11	1	366
Urban	88%	10	2	1367
Region				
Northwest	90%	10	1	166
Southwest	86%	11	3	456
Central	88%	11	1	350
Northeast	89%	10	1	133
Southeast	89%	9	2	628
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	90%	9	2	448
35-49	88%	10	1	519
50-64	87%	11	2	394
65 or older	89%	9	2	344
Sex				
Male	85%	14	1	702
Female	92%	6	2	1019
Race				
White	89%	9	2	1578
Black	86%	11	4	98
Other	72%	24	5	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	82%	13	6	209
High School Graduate	89%	10	1	926
College Graduate	90%	9	1	579
Political Affiliation				
Republican	90%	9	1	643
Democrat	90%	9	2	645
Independent/Other	84%	14	2	67
None	85%	12	2	320
Religious Preference				
Protestant	89%	9	2	796
Catholic	88%	10	2	622
None	87%	12	1	121
Union Member				
Yes	88%	10	1	261
No	88%	10	2	1450
Smoking Status				
Smoker	85%	13	2	387
Ex-Smoker	88%	10	2	509
Non-Smoker	90%	8	2	814

REDUCING SMOKING:
BAN CIGARETTE VENDING MACHINES

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following proposal to reduce smoking: Ban cigarette vending machines?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	54%	43	3	1730
Rural/Urban				
Rural	56%	41	2	365
Urban	53%	43	3	1365
Region				
Northwest	56%	41	3	166
Southwest	51%	46	3	455
Central	53%	45	2	351
Northeast	52%	45	3	132
Southeast	57%	39	4	626
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	46%	52	2	445
35-49	54%	43	2	521
50-64	56%	40	4	393
65 or older	63%	32	5	343
Sex				
Male	51%	46	3	702
Female	57%	40	3	1016
Race				
White	54%	43	3	1575
Black	51%	46	4	98
Other	47%	48	5	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	52%	45	3	208
High School Graduate	54%	43	3	925
College Graduate	56%	41	3	578
Political Affiliation				
Republican	58%	40	2	642
Democrat	53%	43	4	645
Independent/Other	34%	61	6	66
None	54%	44	3	319
Religious Preference				
Protestant	57%	41	2	796
Catholic	49%	47	4	620
None	44%	53	3	121
Union Member				
Yes	56%	43	2	263
No	54%	43	4	1445
Smoking Status				
Smoker	41%	57	2	386
Ex-Smoker	54%	42	4	509
Non-Smoker	60%	36	3	814

REDUCING SMOKING:
BAN CIGARETTE ADVERTISING

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following proposal to reduce smoking: Ban cigarette advertising?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	54%	42	4	1731
Rural/Urban				
Rural	58%	40	2	365
Urban	54%	42	4	1366
Region				
Northwest	57%	41	2	166
Southwest	51%	46	4	455
Central	57%	40	3	350
Northeast	57%	42	1	132
Southeast	55%	40	5	628
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	48%	49	3	447
35-49	58%	40	2	520
50-64	55%	40	5	394
65 or older	58%	37	5	343
Sex				
Male	49%	47	4	703
Female	60%	37	3	1016
Race				
White	55%	42	3	1576
Black	56%	39	5	98
Other	51%	42	7	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	56%	39	5	209
High School Graduate	54%	42	4	925
College Graduate	55%	42	2	578
Political Affiliation				
Republican	57%	40	3	643
Democrat	55%	40	4	642
Independent/Other	43%	57	0	67
None	52%	44	4	320
Religious Preference				
Protestant	55%	40	4	796
Catholic	54%	43	3	621
None	44%	54	2	121
Union Member				
Yes	53%	41	6	262
No	55%	42	3	1447
Smoking Status				
Smoker	47%	50	4	387
Ex-Smoker	54%	43	3	508
Non-Smoker	59%	37	4	814

REDUCING SMOKING:
MAKE POSSESSION UNDER THE AGE OF 21 ILLEGAL

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following proposal to reduce smoking: Pass a law which would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess cigarettes?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	49%	48	3	1732
Rural/Urban				
Rural	57%	40	3	365
Urban	47%	50	3	1367
Region				
Northwest	59%	38	3	166
Southwest	51%	46	3	455
Central	53%	45	2	351
Northeast	48%	50	1	132
Southeast	42%	54	4	628
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	49%	50	2	448
35-49	48%	48	3	521
50-64	46%	51	2	393
65 or older	54%	42	4	342
Sex				
Male	46%	52	2	701
Female	52%	45	4	1019
Race				
White	49%	48	3	1577
Black	52%	43	6	98
Other	38%	60	2	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	59%	38	3	209
High School Graduate	51%	47	3	925
College Graduate	42%	55	3	579
Political Affiliation				
Republican	48%	49	3	642
Democrat	49%	49	2	644
Independent/Other	40%	56	3	67
None	53%	44	3	320
Religious Preference				
Protestant	53%	44	3	796
Catholic	46%	52	2	622
None	38%	58	4	121
Union Member				
Yes	52%	46	2	261
No	48%	49	3	1449
Smoking Status				
Smoker	47%	50	2	388
Ex-Smoker	45%	52	3	507
Non-Smoker	52%	44	3	815

ABORTION

- **Pennsylvanians support specific restrictions on abortion — informing the husband, informing women about alternatives, 24-hour waiting, and parental notification — Yet Pennsylvanians also agree (70%) that women should have the right to choose**

- **Pennsylvanians do not feel activists have a right to block abortion clinics**

Informing the Husband. One of the most controversial provisions of the Pennsylvania Abortion Law is that a husband must be informed before his wife can undergo an abortion. A strong majority (74%) of Pennsylvanians support the provision: males more so than females (80% v.69%). As one male succinctly expressed his opinion: "If a couple's living together, they should decide together." Opposition to the provision is strongest among college graduates (37%), and persons without a religious preference (47%). Several respondents emphasized that the provision should clearly not apply if the husband was not living with the wife or if the wife claimed that her husband was not the father. Others flatly opposed it on the grounds it was a violation of a woman's absolute individual right to control her body. One remarked, "I'm against abortion and against laws against abortion." Another, "I had one. I regret it now but if a woman decides to have an abortion, it is still her choice."

Advise of Alternatives. Another provision of the Pennsylvania law is that a woman seeking an abortion must be advised of the alternatives (e.g., adoption). According to the survey, the public overwhelmingly supports (92%) this provision of the law. Nonetheless, one opponent remarked: "Don't tell a woman about alternatives if she doesn't have any."

24-Hour Waiting Period. A third provision of the Pennsylvania law requires a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion unless there's an emergency. Overall, 82% support the provision: more so among rural Pennsylvanians than urbanites. Opponents were more likey to be college graduates (25%).

Parental Notification. A fourth provision of the Pennsylvania law requires that parents give consent before their daughter undergoes an abortion if she is under eighteen. However, since the provision is especially complicated, the survey question asked simply if a parent needed to be notified. Among Pennsylvanians, 80% agree with notification.

Blocking Abortion Clinics. Over the past year, ardent right-to-life activists have engaged in the controversial tactic of blocking the entrances of selected abortion clinics. They justify the tactic on the grounds that abortion is murder. Still, a strong majority (84%) of Pennsylvanians do not agree that activists have a right to engage in such actions. As one respondent put it: "Protest, yes; block, no." Another, "I don't believe in abortion, but this is a democracy and we can't take away women's rights." By contrast, a supporter of the activists noted: " Personally, I wouldn't do it, but I feel those people are doing God's will. When people's morals go bad, something's gotta be done."

Right to Choose. As indicated, most Pennsylvanians support state-level restrictions on abortion. Yet, when asked: "Do you favor or oppose a federal law giving women the right to choose to have an abortion?" 70% say they do. The seeming contradiction is consistent with previous surveys showing that many Americans will agree in a general sense that women have a right to choose, yet they do not view that right as absolute and without restriction.

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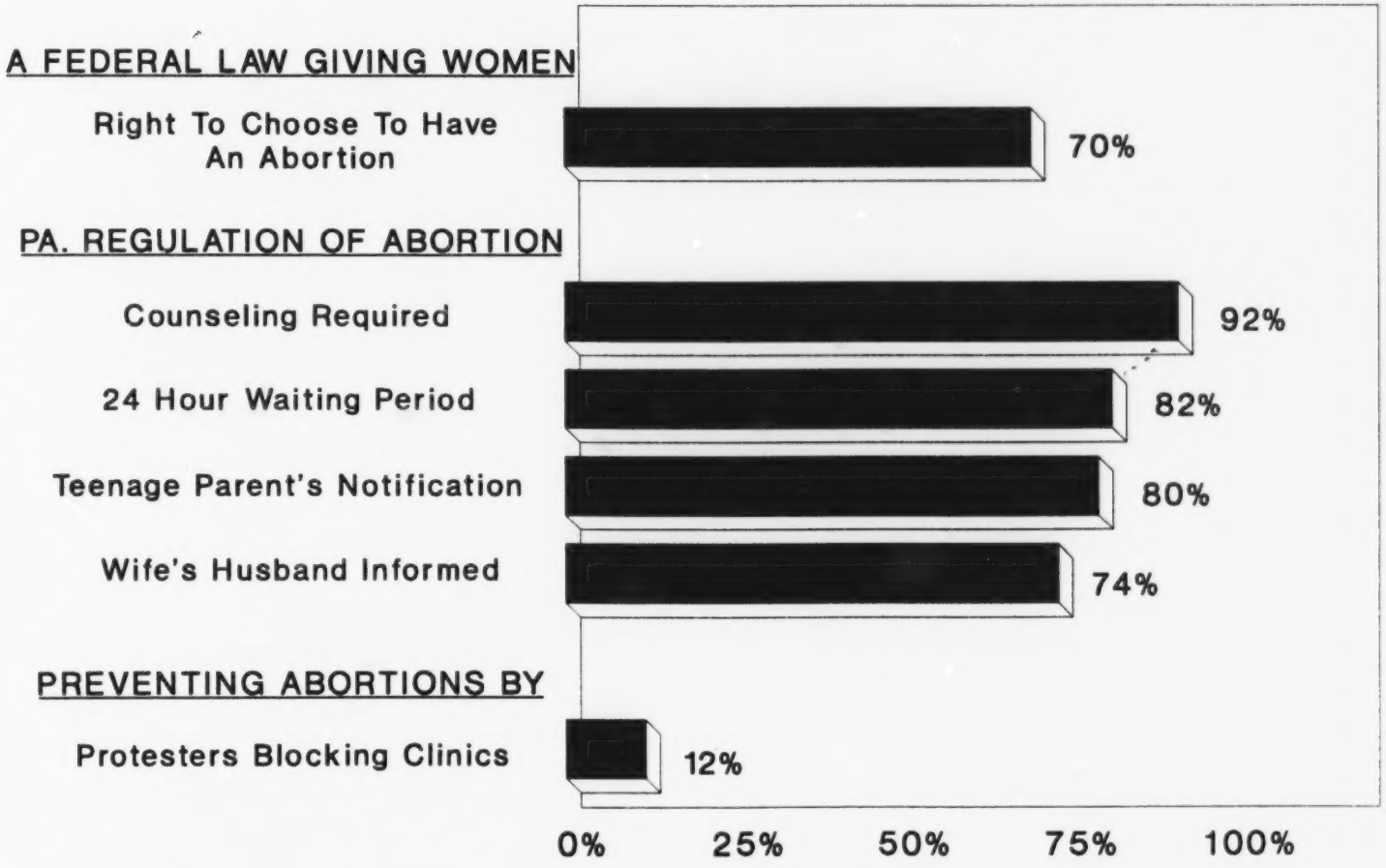
Figure 3. VIEWS ON ABORTION

Respondents "Favoring" ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1992

ABORTION:
PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement in Pennsylvania: Parents must be notified before their daughter has an abortion if she's under 18?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	80%	18	2	1727
Rural/Urban				
Rural	86%	13	1	364
Urban	79%	19	2	1363
Region				
Northwest	90%	8	2	161
Southwest	83%	15	2	456
Central	85%	14	1	351
Northeast	78%	20	2	133
Southeast	73%	23	3	626
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	78%	20	2	448
35-49	80%	19	1	519
50-64	82%	15	3	394
65 or older	82%	15	4	341
Sex				
Male	81%	16	3	697
Female	80%	18	2	1018
Race				
White	80%	18	2	1574
Black	80%	18	2	98
Other	68%	21	11	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	85%	12	3	208
High School Graduate	86%	12	2	923
College Graduate	70%	28	2	578
Political Affiliation				
Republican	82%	16	2	642
Democrat	79%	20	1	644
Independent/Other	73%	24	3	65
None	82%	14	4	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	81%	16	2	796
Catholic	86%	12	2	620
None	65%	34	2	120
Union Member				
Yes	81%	17	2	262
No	80%	18	2	1443

ABORTION:
INFORMING THE HUSBAND

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement in Pennsylvania: A husband must be informed before his wife has an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	74%	24	3	1723
Rural/Urban				
Rural	82%	17	1	362
Urban	72%	25	3	1361
Region				
Northwest	78%	19	3	161
Southwest	76%	22	2	456
Central	80%	17	2	349
Northeast	76%	21	4	132
Southeast	67%	30	3	625
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	72%	26	2	449
35-49	72%	26	2	519
50-64	74%	24	2	392
65 or older	80%	17	4	338
Sex				
Male	80%	19	1	693
Female	69%	28	3	1018
Race				
White	74%	23	3	571
Black	68%	30	2	98
Other	74%	23	2	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	85%	13	2	205
High School Graduate	80%	18	3	922
College Graduate	60%	37	3	578
Political Affiliation				
Republican	75%	23	2	641
Democrat	73%	25	2	642
Independent/Other	61%	33	6	66
None	78%	19	4	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	74%	23	3	795
Catholic	80%	18	2	619
None	52%	47	2	120
Union Member				
Yes	77%	21	2	261
No	73%	24	3	1441

ABORTION:
ADVISING THE WOMAN OF ALTERNATIVES

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement in Pennsylvania: A woman seeking an abortion must be told about alternatives?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	92%	7	1	1718
Rural/Urban				
Rural	94%	5	2	359
Urban	91%	8	1	1359
Region				
Northwest	95%	4	1	160
Southwest	91%	8	1	455
Central	95%	4	1	347
Northeast	89%	8	3	132
Southeast	90%	9	1	624
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	95%	5	0	448
35-49	92%	7	1	517
50-64	91%	7	2	391
65 or older	87%	10	3	337
Sex				
Male	90%	8	2	691
Female	93%	6	1	1015
Race				
White	92%	7	1	1567
Black	90%	10	0	98
Other	92%	8	0	36
Educational Level				
Less than High School	92%	6	2	205
High School Graduate	95%	4	1	920
College Graduate	87%	12	1	575
Political Affiliation				
Republican	92%	7	1	640
Democrat	91%	8	2	641
Independent/Other	88%	10	1	66
None	96%	3	1	316
Religious Preference				
Protestant	93%	6	1	794
Catholic	94%	6	1	615
None	82%	16	2	120
Union Member				
Yes	91%	8	2	261
No	92%	7	1	1436

ABORTION:
24 HOUR WAITING PERIOD

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement in Pennsylvania: There must be a 24 hour waiting period before a woman has an abortion unless there's an emergency?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	82%	15	2	1721
Rural/Urban				
Rural	88%	9	3	362
Urban	81%	17	2	1359
Region				
Northwest	90%	6	4	160
Southwest	80%	17	3	455
Central	88%	11	1	350
Northeast	82%	13	5	132
Southeast	79%	19	2	624
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	82%	17	1	449
35-49	83%	16	2	518
50-64	82%	15	3	391
65 or older	84%	12	4	338
Sex				
Male	83%	15	2	694
Female	82%	15	3	1015
Race				
White	83%	15	2	1570
Black	77%	21	2	97
Other	73%	24	3	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	87%	9	4	206
High School Graduate	87%	10	2	921
College Graduate	73%	25	2	576
Political Affiliation				
Republican	84%	14	1	640
Democrat	81%	15	3	641
Independent/Other	73%	25	3	66
None	84%	13	3	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	84%	14	3	793
Catholic	86%	11	2	619
None	70%	30	0	120
Union Member				
Yes	84%	14	2	262
No	82%	15	2	1438

ABORTION:
BLOCKING ABORTION CLINICS

Question: In your opinion, do abortion protesters have the right to block the entrance of a clinic to prevent a woman from obtaining a legal abortion?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	12%	84	4	1717
Rural/Urban				
Rural	13%	84	3	362
Urban	12%	85	4	1355
Region				
Northwest	16%	81	3	158
Southwest	13%	82	5	453
Central	14%	84	3	350
Northeast	13%	83	4	132
Southeast	9%	88	3	624
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	13%	86	1	448
35-49	11%	85	4	517
50-64	13%	84	3	391
65 or older	12%	82	6	337
Sex				
Male	12%	85	2	690
Female	12%	84	4	1015
Race				
White	11%	85	3	1565
Black	18%	78	4	98
Other	21%	77	2	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	12%	81	7	203
High School Graduate	13%	83	4	920
College Graduate	10%	88	2	576
Political Affiliation				
Republican	13%	84	3	640
Democrat	12%	84	4	638
Independent/Other	13%	84	3	66
None	10%	86	4	318
Religious Preference				
Protestant	10%	86	4	796
Catholic	15%	81	4	615
None	7%	92	1	119
Union Member				
Yes	12%	84	3	261
No	12%	85	4	1435

ABORTION:
RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Question: Do you favor or oppose a federal law giving women the right to choose to have an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	70%	26	4	1710
Rural/Urban				
Rural	69%	28	3	358
Urban	70%	25	4	1352
Region				
Northwest	66%	29	5	160
Southwest	65%	31	4	450
Central	67%	29	4	347
Northeast	68%	28	4	130
Southeast	77%	19	4	623
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	76%	21	3	448
35-49	74%	23	3	514
50-64	62%	33	4	385
65 or older	64%	29	7	338
Sex				
Male	69%	27	4	690
Female	71%	25	4	1008
Race				
White	70%	26	4	1559
Black	67%	30	3	97
Other	68%	27	6	37
Educational Level				
Less than High School	61%	33	6	206
High School Graduate	70%	26	3	913
College Graduate	74%	22	4	573
Political Affiliation				
Republican	68%	27	4	637
Democrat	70%	26	4	637
Independent/Other	74%	23	4	65
None	74%	23	3	315
Religious Preference				
Protestant	71%	24	5	787
Catholic	64%	32	4	615
None	84%	16	0	120
Union Member				
Yes	71%	26	3	259
No	70%	26	4	143

EDUCATION

- **75% of Pennsylvanians favor giving parents the right to choose the public school within the school district for their child to attend.**

- **The public supports continued use of state funds to aid private colleges and universities.**

- **Pennsylvanians slightly favor a lengthened school year, oppose school vouchers, and strongly oppose prohibition of school prayers at graduation ceremonies.**

School Choice. By a 75-21% margin, Pennsylvanians favor passage of a law that would allow parents to choose the public school within their school district that their child would attend. The "public school choice" option is most strongly supported (82%) among persons under 35 years of age; it has less support (70%) among the elderly. Supporters view it as a means of empowering parents and pressuring schools to improve their curriculums so they become the "chosen" schools; opponents point to the costs of busing and claim "school choice" will undermine neighborhood schools and encourage unproductive competition within education.

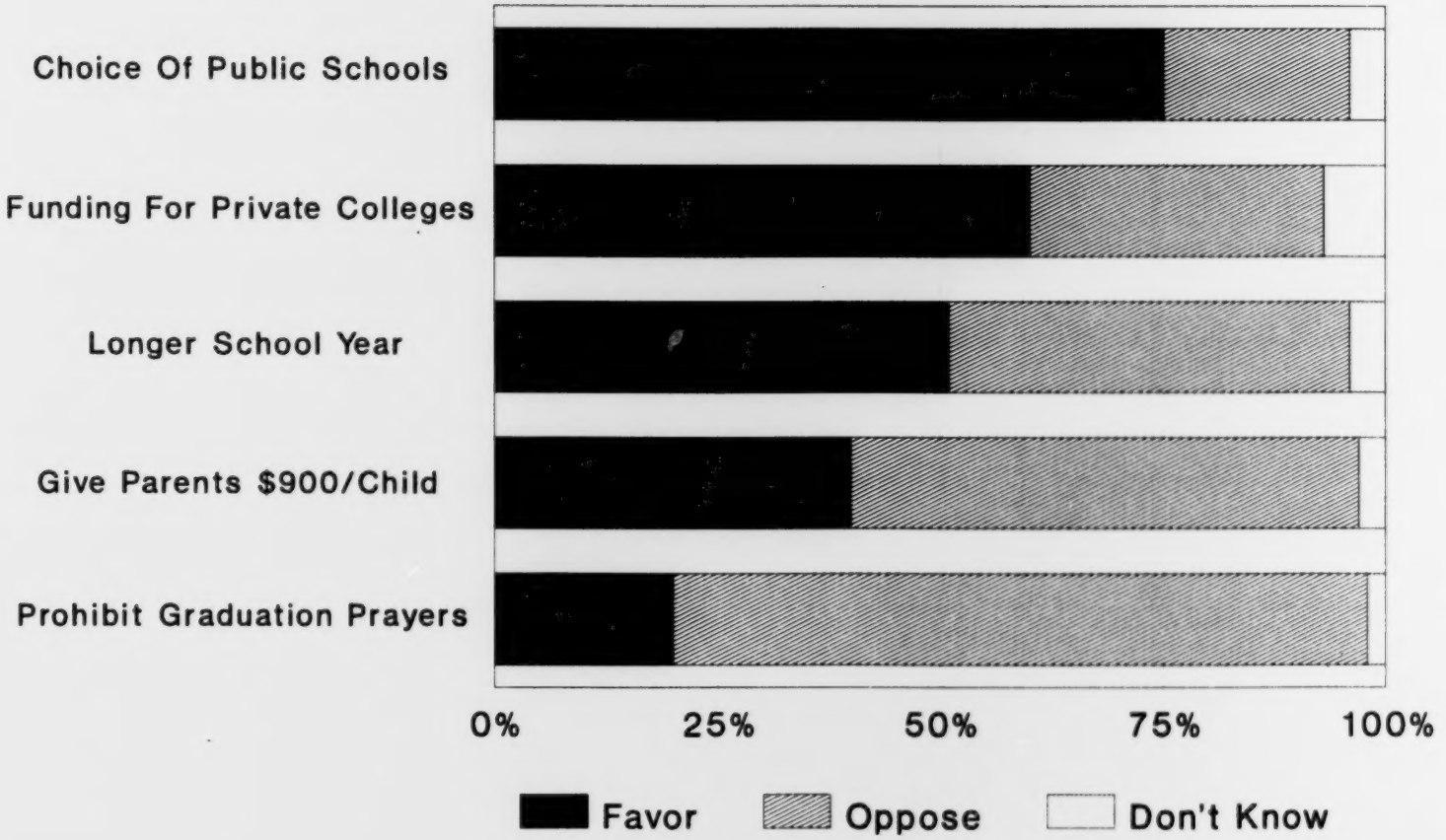
Funding for Private Colleges and Universities. Insofar as the state has become very hard pressed to adequately support its public institutions of higher learning, there have been suggestions the state ought to cut back or even eliminate aid to private colleges and universities. Nonetheless, by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, Pennsylvanians favor continuation of assistance. Support is highest among the college-educated (67%); and, weakest among the elderly (48%).

Lengthen the School Year. By a slight majority (51% v. 44%) Pennsylvanians would favor "a law that would increase the number of days children go to school each year." Nonetheless, compared to a similar question asked in the 1991 Public Mind Survey, the figure shows increased support for lengthening the school year. Last year, only 41% favored lengthening when asked: "Currently, the school year in Pennsylvania is 180 days. Do you favor or oppose having more days in the school year?" Support is strongest among blacks (63%), persons living in the southeast (58%), and among college graduates (57%). One respondent noted that they favored a lengthened school year, but "only if teachers work for the same pay." Another commented, "Anything to get rid of the kids!"

Tuition Vouchers. In 1991, the Pennsylvania Senate approved, but the House rejected a bill that would have created tuition vouchers of up to $900 for the parents of children enrolled in private or parochial schools. Interestingly, the House vote (56% opposed) mirrored public opinion: 57% of Pennsylvanians oppose having "a law to give parents up to $900 to help pay the cost of sending their child to a private or parochial school." Predictably, religious preference is a key factor affecting opinion: Catholics are nearly twice as likely as Protestants (56% v. 29%) to support tuition vouchers.

Restriction on School Prayer. In response to the debate about the separation of church and state, periodically there are proposals to place restrictions on school prayers. In fact, in its current term, the Supreme Court will be deciding on whether or not saying a prayer that mentions God at public high school graduation ceremonies violates the constitution. Among Pennsylvanians, only 20% agree that prayers at graduation should be prohibited. (See description of the Supreme Court case page 32).

Figure 4. PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT EDUCATION PROPOSALS



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1992

EDUCATION:
LENGTHEN SCHOOL YEAR

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following: A law that would increase the number of days children go to school each year?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	51%	44	4	1697
Rural/Urban				
Rural	45%	52	3	358
Urban	53%	42	5	1339
Region				
Northwest	45%	53	3	160
Southwest	47%	48	5	450
Central	47%	50	4	343
Northeast	54%	42	3	133
Southeast	58%	37	5	611
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	48%	49	3	646
35-49	48%	49	4	514
50-64	53%	42	5	386
65 or older	58%	35	7	330
Sex				
Male	53%	42	4	689
Female	49%	46	4	997
Race				
White	50%	45	5	1552
Black	63%	36	1	95
Other	62%	35	3	34
Educational Level				
Less than High School	47%	46	7	199
High School Graduate	48%	48	4	911
College Graduate	57%	39	4	574
Political Affiliation				
Republican	54%	43	3	630
Democrat	51%	44	5	635
Independent/Other	46%	46	8	65
None	47%	48	6	311
Religious Preference				
Protestant	48%	47	5	782
Catholic	52%	44	4	612
None	63%	35	3	119
Union Member				
Yes	49%	45	6	260
No	52%	44	4	1419

EDUCATION:
SCHOOL CHOICE

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following: A law that would allow parents to choose the public school within their school district that their child would attend?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	75%	21	4	1693
Rural/Urban				
Rural	76%	21	4	356
Urban	75%	22	4	1337
Region				
Northwest	79%	18	3	159
Southwest	73%	23	4	450
Central	73%	23	4	342
Northeast	83%	16	1	132
Southeast	75%	22	4	610
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	82%	16	2	446
35-49	74%	23	3	507
50-64	73%	23	5	388
65 or older	70%	25	5	330
Sex				
Male	74%	24	3	685
Female	76%	19	4	997
Race				
White	75%	21	4	1547
Black	77%	20	3	96
Other	79%	18	3	34
Educational Level				
Less than High School	79%	16	5	199
High School Graduate	77%	20	3	911
College Graduate	71%	25	3	570
Political Affiliation				
Republican	74%	22	4	628
Democrat	74%	22	4	635
Independent/Other	69%	30	1	65
None	80%	16	4	309
Religious Preference				
Protestant	71%	25	4	783
Catholic	81%	16	3	607
None	68%	28	4	119
Union Member				
Yes	73%	25	2	259
No	76%	20	4	1416

EDUCATION:
SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following: A law to give parents up to $900 to help pay the cost of sending their child to a private or parochial school?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	40%	57	3	1691
Rural/Urban				
Rural	33%	64	3	356
Urban	42%	55	3	1335
Region				
Northwest	40%	59	1	160
Southwest	38%	59	3	447
Central	32%	64	4	343
Northeast	44%	54	3	133
Southeast	44%	52	4	609
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	49%	50	2	444
35-49	38%	60	2	513
50-64	39%	57	4	386
65 or older	32%	62	6	329
Sex				
Male	41%	58	2	688
Female	39%	57	5	992
Race				
White	38%	59	3	1547
Black	60%	39	1	94
Other	59%	35	6	34
Educational Level				
Less than High School	39%	54	6	196
High School Graduate	40%	57	3	908
College Graduate	40%	59	2	575
Political Affiliation				
Republican	40%	58	2	630
Democrat	41%	54	5	634
Independent/Other	35%	65	0	65
None	39%	58	2	308
Religious Preference				
Protestant	29%	67	4	783
Catholic	56%	42	3	607
None	33%	66	2	118
Union Member				
Yes	39%	59	2	260
No	40%	57	4	1413

EDUCATION:
FUNDING FOR PRIVATE COLLEGES

Question: Do you favor or oppose continuing to use state funds to aid private colleges and universities?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	60%	33	7	1686
Rural/Urban				
Rural	59%	34	7	355
Urban	60%	32	7	1331
Region				
Northwest	56%	36	8	158
Southwest	58%	33	9	447
Central	62%	33	5	343
Northeast	64%	32	4	130
Southeast	62%	31	7	608
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	66%	32	3	444
35-49	65%	29	6	511
50-64	58%	34	8	385
65 or older	48%	38	14	326
Sex				
Male	59%	36	6	684
Female	61%	30	9	991
Race				
White	60%	32	7	1542
Black	61%	32	6	96
Other	51%	44	5	34
Educational Level				
Less than High School	50%	37	12	198
High School Graduate	59%	34	8	94
College Graduate	67%	29	5	572
Political Affiliation				
Republican	59%	33	8	625
Democrat	63%	29	8	633
Independent/Other	51%	44	5	64
None	61%	34	5	310
Religious Preference				
Protestant	59%	33	8	779
Catholic	64%	28	8	609
None	55%	40	6	117
Union Member				
Yes	61%	30	9	256
No	60%	33	7	1413

SCHOOL PRAYER CASE
WEISMAN v. LEE

The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution has been variously interpreted to determine what is meant by the separation of church and state. On the one hand, strict separatists, emphasizing the letter of the law, contend that the clause clearly prohibits the recitation of prayers in public schools. They argue that allowing the religious beliefs of the majority to be expressed will erode the rights of religious minorities from the oppression of the majority. By contrast, so-called accommodationists, emphasizing what they deem to be the spirit of the clause, contend that prayer in schools should be permitted because traditionally the society has permitted prayers to be said at Presidential inaugurations and in Congress. They argue for equal opportunity of diverse religious prayers to be expressed in schools as long as no student is coerced, threatened, or indoctrinated.

In Engel v. Vitale (1962), the Supreme Court interpreted the establishment clause from a strict separatist perspective, and thereby categorically prohibited prayer in public schools. The prayer "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country" had been recommended by the New York State Board of Regents and was to be said aloud by children in public school each day in the presence of a teacher. Expressing the majority opinion of the Court, Justice Black wrote:

> "There can be no doubt that New York's state prayer program officially establishes the religious beliefs embodied in the Regents' prayer. The respondents' argument to the contrary, which is largely based upon the contention that the Regents' prayer is 'non-denominational' and the fact that the program as modified and approved by the state courts does not require all pupils to recite the prayer but permits those who wish to remain silent or be excused from the room, ignores the essential nature of the program's constitutional defects. Neither the fact that the prayer may be denominationally neutral nor the fact that its observance on the part of the students is voluntary can serve to free it from the limitations of the Establishment Clause . . . ."

Despite the Engle Vitale decision, due to strong public opposition to the decision, many school districts ignored the court's ruling and the practice of prayer recitation continued throughout American Society. Facing the issue again, in 1971, the Court formulated the so-called "Lemon Test" for determining whether or not a public practice violated the Establishment Clause. Under the test, a practice is constitutionally acceptable only if: (1) there is a secular purpose; (2) the principal primary effect is to neither foster nor discriminate against a particular religious belief; and, (3) the practice will not cause excessive entanglement between government and religion.

In 1989, the issue of having prayers at a graduation ceremony was challenged again by a Jewish couple, Daniel and Vivian Weisman. The couple first protested the practice following a daughter's middle school graduation. The Weismans said they were humiliated when a minster asked the audience to stand and give thanks to Jesus for the accomplishments of the graduates. When a second daughter was to graduate, the Weismans asked that the school refrain from having any invocation. But instead, school officials invited a rabbi to offer a nondenominational blessing. Among other thanks, the rabbi thanked God for "the legacy of America where diversity is celebrated and the rights of minorities are protected . . . ."

In 1992, in Weisman v. Lee, the Supreme Court will decide on the issue of whether or not prayers should be banned at public school graduation ceremonies.

EDUCATION:
RESTRICTING SCHOOL PRAYER

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following: A law that would prohibit saying a prayer mentioning God at a public high school graduation ceremony?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	20%	78	2	1688
Rural/Urban				
Rural	24%	75	1	353
Urban	19%	78	3	1335
Region				
Northwest	23%	77	0	159
Southwest	17%	80	3	446
Central	21%	76	3	341
Northeast	18%	81	1	133
Southeast	21%	76	3	609
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	24%	73	4	444
35-49	19%	79	2	512
50-64	15%	83	2	383
65 or older	20%	78	2	328
Sex				
Male	22%	75	2	687
Female	18%	80	2	991
Race				
White	20%	78	2	1545
Black	22%	75	3	93
Other	16%	75	10	34
Educational Level				
Less than High School	23%	74	2	197
High School Graduate	21%	78	2	904
College Graduate	17%	80	3	575
Political Affiliation				
Republican	18%	80	2	628
Democrat	22%	77	2	634
Independent/Other	10%	88	3	64
None	21%	75	5	308
Religious Preference				
Protestant	18%	80	2	780
Catholic	18%	80	2	611
None	34%	63	3	117
Union Member				
Yes	21%	77	1	259
No	19%	78	3	1411

SOCIO-POLITICAL ISSUES

Children's Health Insurance. A strong majority (84%) of Pennsylvanians favor legislation that would provide health insurance for all children under six who are not currently covered by any insurance plan. The proposed law has especially strong support among blacks (94%), 18-34 year-olds (92%), and Democrats (91%).

Employer-Paid Health Insurance. The so-called "play or pay" health coverage proposals require employers to either pay for the insurance of their employees or be "taxed" to create a fund for uninsured workers. About 77% of Pennsylvanians agree that employers should be required to provide health insurance for their employees. Support is strong among both Republicans (70%) and Democrats (80%).

Physician-Assisted Euthanasia. A majority (54%) of Pennsylvanians agree with euthanasia when asked: "If you become terminally ill and if you request it, do you think a doctor should be allowed to prescribe a drug that would hasten your death?" In the 1991 Public Mind Survey, a higher percentage (67%) agreed with euthanasia when asked: "When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his family request it?" It is unclear whether there is declining support for euthanasia or if the difference is based upon the differences in the question wording.

Opposition to euthanasia is strongest among blacks, the elderly, persons who have not completed high school, and females. Comments included: "Save it, don't take it . . . Let God take me on his own . . . . The doctor didn't put you on this earth and he shouldn't take you off." Proponents countered: "Humans should have the same rights as other animals . . . . We treat dogs better than our people."

Privatization of the State Liquor Stores. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Pennsylvanians favor legislation under which the state liquor stores would be sold and operated as private businesses. Support is strongest in the southeast (70%), among males (70%), and college graduates (71%). Least supportive are persons who did not complete high school (45%), the elderly (52%), and blacks (53%). Many fear that privatization will lead to more problem drinking, especially among young people.

Five Cent Deposit on Beer and Soda Containers. Seventy-four percent of Pennsylvanians feel there should be a deposit law. One person commented: "Make it fifty cents to keep 'em out of my field." Others noted that a deposit law would help bring a return of the good old-fashioned ethic of re-using resources instead of wasting them. Opponents contended they felt recycling was enough.

Riverboat Gambling. By a narrow majority (51%), Pennsylvanians support the legalization of riverboat gambling. Support is strongest among union members (62%) and Catholics (60%). It is weakest among elderly (44%) and blacks (42%).

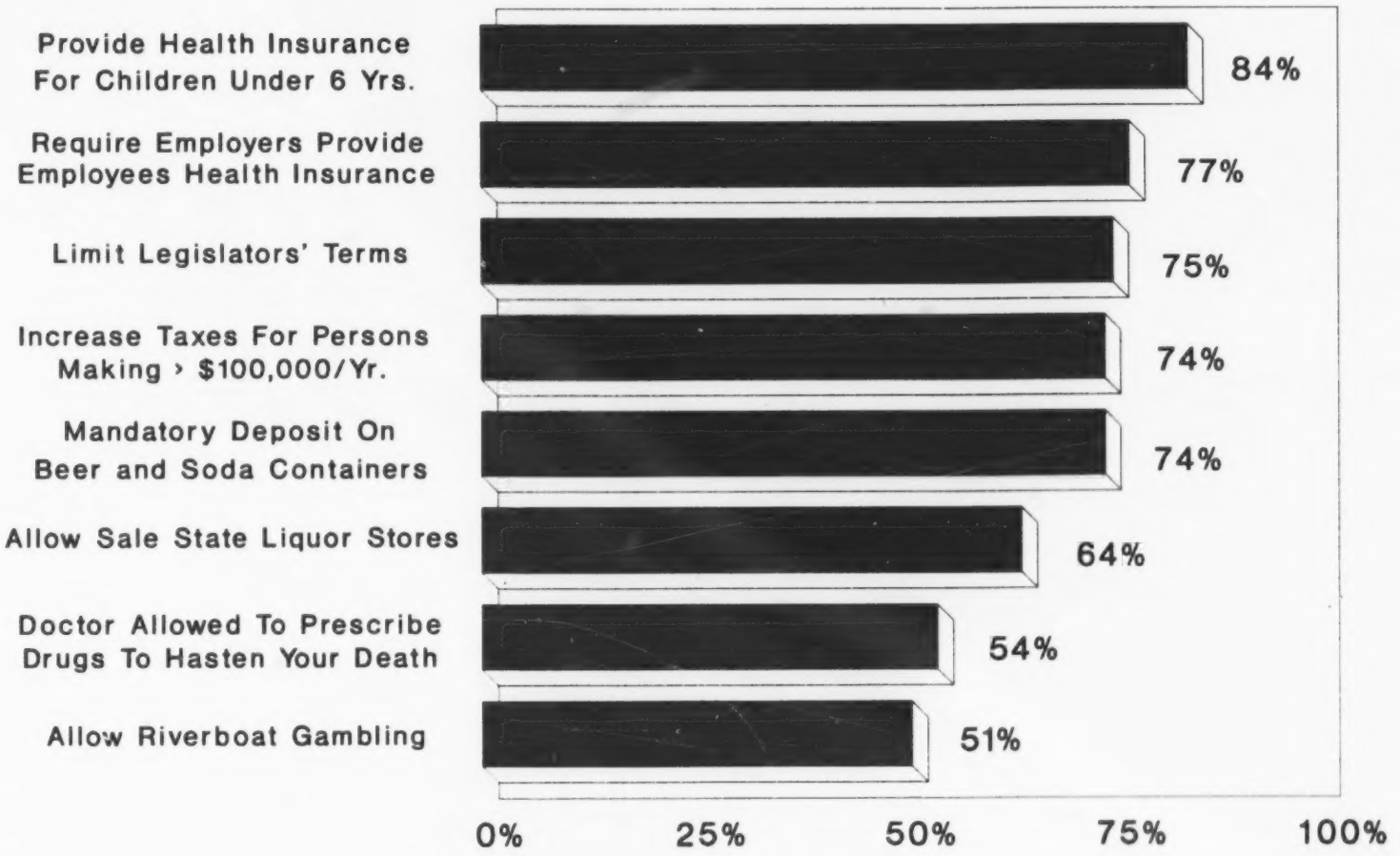
"Rich Tax." A strong majority (74%) of Pennsylvanians support legislation that would increase the state income tax for persons who earn $100,000 or more per year. Support is stronger among Democrats (78%) than Republicans (69%); and, among ruralites (79%) more so than among urbanites (72%). Since the Pennsylvania constitution does not allow a graduated income tax, a "rich tax" would require a constitutional change.

Term Limits. A strong majority (75%) favor legislation that would place a limit on the number of years that a Pennsylvania legislator would be allowed to hold office. Interestingly, there were no differences of opinion with regard to the sex, age, religion, or political affiliation of the respondents. However, whites indicated more support for the idea than blacks (76% v. 63%), and more educated respondents indicated greater support than persons who did not complete high school (77% v. 64%).

One respondent remarked: "Exit the incumbents!" Another: "Limit the terms of the deadheads!" One puzzled respondent replied: "Limit them to as long as they're in office."

Figure 5. ISSUES FACING PENNSYLVANIANS

Respondents "Favoring" A Law to ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1992

SOCIO-POLITICAL ISSUES

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following:

➤ A law that would provide health insurance for all children under six who are not currently covered by any insurance plan? **(Child Health Insurance)**

➤ A law that would require employers to provide health insurance for their employees? **(Employer Insurance Plan)**

➤ If you become terminally ill and if you request it, do you think a doctor should be allowed to prescribe a drug that would hasten your death? **(Euthanasia)**

➤ A law under which the State liquor stores would be sold and operated as private businesses? **(Private Liquor Store)**

➤ A law requiring a 5 cent deposit on beer and soda containers? **(5 cent Deposit)**

➤ A law that would allow riverboat gambling in Pennsylvania? **(Riverboat Gambling)**

➤ A law that would increase the State income tax for persons who earn $100,000 or more per year? **("Rich Tax")**

➤ It has been proposed to place a limit on the number of years that a Pennsylvania legislator be allowed to hold office. Do you favor or oppose having a limit? **(Term Limit)**

SOCIO-POLITICAL ISSUES

RESPONSES:	Child Health Insurance	Employer Insurance Plan	Euthanasia	Private Liquor Store	5 Cent Deposit	Riverboat Gambling	"Rich Tax"	Term Limit
	PERCENT RESPONDENTS "FAVORING"							
Statewide	84%	77%	54%	64%	74%	51%	74%	75%
Rural/Urban								
Rural	86	80	52	60	78	49	79	75
Urban	84	76	55	65	72	52	72	75
Region								
Northwest	89	82	53	62	73	52	79	72
Southwest	87	78	54	61	66	57	74	76
Central	80	74	51	62	77	47	78	77
Northeast	87	83	50	61	81	46	75	74
Southeast	83	75	57	70	76	50	69	76
Age								
18 to 34 year olds	92	84	63	67	72	56	76	72
35-49	84	76	60	71	75	53	72	78
50-64	84	74	47	62	75	49	75	77
65 or older	75	72	42	52	72	44	73	73
Sex								
Male	81	72	60	70	77	56	72	75
Female	87	81	49	59	70	47	75	75
Race								
White	84	76	55	65	74	52	74	76
Black	94	85	42	53	69	42	72	63
Other	78	78	51	57	60	41	72	85
Educational Level								
Less than High School	85	82	46	45	66	39	77	64
High School Graduate	85	80	54	63	74	56	79	77
College Graduate	84	70	57	71	76	48	65	76
Political Affiliation								
Republican	78	70	52	69	78	50	69	78
Democrat	91	80	54	62	72	54	79	75
Independent/Other	88	67	57	74	69	45	71	79
None	83	84	58	58	68	51	75	70
Religious Preference								
Protestant	81	74	54	60	76	45	73	75
Catholic	88	81	50	68	69	60	74	78
None	81	72	68	75	80	61	72	71
Union Member								
Yes	89	84	60	61	73	62	77	72
No	84	75	53	65	74	49	73	76

QUOTES

Abortion

"The state government should not be our mother."
"I'm against abortion and against laws against abortion."
"It's simply murder."
"I had one. I regret it now, but if a woman decides to have an abortion, it is still her choice."
"I don't believe in it, but this is a democracy and we can't take away women's rights."
"Abortion should remain a religious or moral issue, not a political or government matter."
Inform husband? "If they're living together, they should decide together."
Inform husband? "A husband should absolutely not be told."
Tell of alternatives? "Don't tell women about alternatives if they don't have any."

Blocking Abortion Clinics

"Protest, yes. Block, no."
"Personally I wouldn't do it, but I feel those people are doing God's will. When people's morals go bad, somethings gotta be done."

Demographic Questions

"No, I didn't have sex last night. You asked me everything else so if you were wondering, I didn't."

Deposit Law

"Make it fifty cents to keep 'em out of my fields."

Euthanasia

"The doctor didn't put you on this earth and he shouldn't take you off."
"Humans should have the same rights as other animals."
"We treat dogs better than our people."
"Let God take me on his own."
"Save it, don't take it."

Gambling

"We go to Atlantic City, so let's make money here."
"If not here, people will go elsewhere."

Lengthen School Year

"Only if teachers work for the same pay."
"Anything to get rid of the kids!"

Prayer at Graduation

"If there was more prayer in school, there'd be less crime in the streets."
"Should be words of spirit, not words of a religion."
"God gave us all good things including the rain and the sunshine. So why should we be ashamed to mention God?"
"I don't care what the Constitution says about separation. It's not right to not have a prayer."
"Our country started going down the drain on the day we stopped prayer in school . . . This country was built on prayer."

Privatization of Liquor Stores

"Sell 'em and I think the price of booze in Pennsylvania will drop."
"If they make 'em private, more children will have it. They could just go in and steal it."

Smoking

"Nicotine should be treated like alcohol."
"We should concentrate more on the drug problem in America. After all, drugs are killing a lot more people than smoking."
"We should close down the cigarette industry and use tobacco to kill bugs."
"People should not have the freedom to smoke in my face."
"People ought to be responsible for themselves. If they get sick, they deserve it."
"Manufacturers of cigarettes are more liable for harm than the gun makers."
"They shouldn't be held liable because people choose to smoke."
"If you are stupid enough to smoke, it's your own fault."
"Cigarette advertising ought to be allowed in a free country."
"The legal age should be 18 not 21 because if you're old enough to die for your country, you're old enough to do what you want."
"Denying jobs to smokers is a very good illegal idea."

Term Limits

"It's time to get rid of the old farts."
"Make 'em quit at 65."
"Limit the terms of those deadheads!"
"Limit them to as long as they're in office."

Vouchers

"No. I didn't get any. I paid for my children to go to parochial schools."

Warning Labels

"If people don't know by now what cigarettes do, they must be retarded."

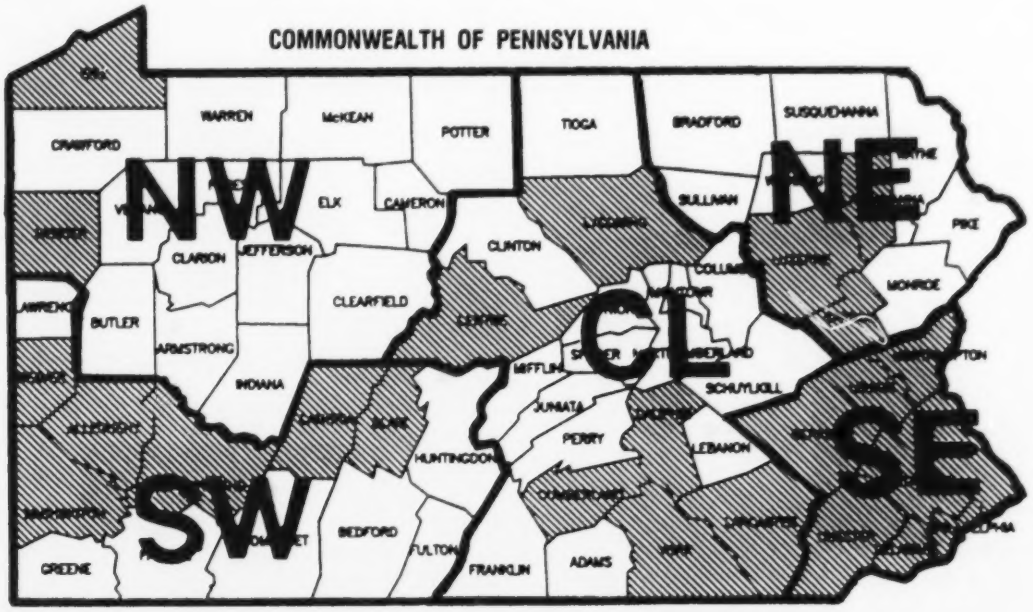
Welfare Reform

"Welfare is too many people gettin' too much money too easy."
"My daughter's on it with one daughter and can't get enough money for food."
"Counselling is not enough. Require Norplant!"
"The elderly who have money should use it for their own care and not give it to their children so I have to pay for their care."
"Make welfare women keep their pants on."
"The tax barrel's empty!"
"Provide jobs for welfare mothers. Don't just give 'em money."

APPENDIX A:
REGIONAL AND URBAN-RURAL CLASSIFICATION

With only a few exceptions, people living in a borough or township with a total population smaller than 2,500 people are rural residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Based upon this definition of rural areas, the counties shown in white are considered mostly "rural counties," and the counties shown in grey are considered mostly "urban counties."

Urban counties are those where less than 50% of the residents are considered rural residents by the census definition while rural counties have more than 50% of their residents living in boroughs or townships with total populations less than 2,500 people.



–URBAN COUNTIES –		– RURAL COUNTIES –		
Allegheny	Lackawanna	Adams	Franklin	Perry
Beaver	Lancaster	Armstrong	Fulton	Pike
Berks	Lehigh	Bedford	Greene	Potter
Clair	Luzerne	Bradford	Hungtingdon	Schuylkill
Bucks	Lycoming	Butler	Indiana	Snyder
Cambria	Mercer	Cameron	Jefferson	Somerset
Carbon	Montgomery	Clarion	Juniata	Sullivan
Centre	Northampton	Clearfield	Lawrence	Susquehanna
Chester	Philadelphia	Clinton	Lebanon	Tioga
Cumberland	Washington	Columbia	McKean	Union
Dauphin	Westmoreland	Crawford	Mifflin	Venango
Delaware	York	Elk	Monroe	Warren
Erie		Fayette	Montour	Wayne
		Forest	Northumberland	Wyoming

APPENDIX B:
THE SAMPLE

The sample was provided by Survey Sampling, Inc. It was a replicate sample consisting of 4217 telephone numbers randomly selected from all listed telephone numbers in Pennsylvania. Of that number, 41% were completions, 29% were refusals, and the remainder were unavailable (no answer, answering machines, etc.). The data were weighted to compensate for the male-female imbalance.

The interviews took place between February 11 and March 5, 1992. Each interview took approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The sample closely approximates actual demographic characteristics of Pennsylvania.

	Actual(1990)	Sample*
Population	11,881,643	1744
Sex		
Male	47%	41%
Female	53	59
Age		
18-34	26%	26%
35-49	20	30
50-64	14	23
65+	15	20
Region		
NW	10%	10%
SW	24	26
CL	20	20
SE	39	36
NE	8	8
Urban-Rural		
Mostly urban counties	79%	79%
Mostly rural counties	21	21%
Political Affiliation		
Registered	59%	81%
Republican	45%	47%
Democratic	51	48
Independent/Other	5	5
Not registered	41	19

*Unweighted Figures

In theory, in 19 of 20 cases the results based upon the sample will differ by no more than 2.4% percentage points in either direction from what would be obtained if all Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were contacted. The potential sampling error for smaller subgroups is larger. For example, for either Democrats or Republicans it is plus or minus 3.5% percentage points.

Division of Community Services And Continuing Education

CONTINUING EDUCATION
(717) 662-4244 or 4849

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- o College Center of The Finger Lakes, Corning, NY
- o Towanda-Williamsport-Loyalsock-Lock Haven

Distance Courses
- o Tele-Conferences
- o Travel Abroad

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- o Course Selection, Registration, Evaluation of Transfer Credit
- o Diagnostic Placement Testing

SUMMER SCHOOL & NON-CREDIT OFFERINGS
(717) 662-4866 or 4850

- o Undergraduate & Graduate Coursework
- o Municipal Police Officers' Training Program and In-Service Training
- o Summer Youth Camps: Gifted, Music, Computer
- o Workshops, Seminars, Travel Tours

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS
(717) 662-4809

- o Grant Writing Workshops
- o Resource Library - Materials & Information
- o Assistance In Locating Funding Sources
- o Cooperative Projects With Community Agencies

RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE
(717) 662-4808

Small Business Assistance Center
- o Assistance in Starting A New Business and Business Expansions

Applied Research Center
- o Surveys, public opinion polls, studies, evaluations, data analysis

Data Center
- o Rural Data Base - Demographic, Economic, Social data

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
(717) 662-4746

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- o Basic Literacy And Basic Skills Training
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- o Computer Assisted Instruction
- o Volunteer Opportunities
- o Tutor Training Workshops/State Sponsored Seminars

HOPE
- o Tioga County Prison Program

Student Literacy Corps
- o Literacy Corps Projects and University Credit

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